### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Dallas Dean,

Plaintiff,
Case No. 4:21-cv-510

v.

Matrix Warranty Solutions, Inc.,
Defendant.

Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial

### **COMPLAINT**

**Dallas Dean** (Plaintiff), by and through his attorneys, **Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.**, alleges the following against **Matrix Warranty Solutions, Inc.** (Defendant):

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. §227 and §302.101 of the Texas Business & Commercial Code.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the TCPA claims in this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, which grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. See Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, 565 U.S. 368, 386-87 (2012) (confirming that 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants the United States district courts federal-question subject-matter jurisdiction to hear private civil suits under the TCPA).
- 3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant conducts business in the State of Texas.
  - 4. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Magnolia, Texas 77355.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "person" as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 7. Defendant is a corporation with principal place of business, head office, or otherwise valid mailing address at 3100 McKinnon Street, Suite 420, Dallas, Texas 75201.
  - 8. Defendant is a "person" as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and/or insurers.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. Plaintiff has cellular telephone numbers ending in 5265 and 5888.
- 11. Defendant placed telephone calls to Plaintiff on his cellular telephone numbers on for solicitation purposes.
  - 12. Defendant was calling Plaintiff to sell him an automobile warranty.
- 13. Plaintiff was not interested in a motor vehicle warranty, did not request information from Defendant, and did not consent to these calls.
- 14. Defendant placed these calls using an automatic telephone dialing system and/or pre-recorded message.
  - 15. Defendant's calls were not made for "emergency purposes."
- 16. Plaintiff's number ending in 5888 has been on the Do Not Call Registry since June of 2003.
- 17. Plaintiff's number ending in 5265 has been on the Do Not Call Registry since January of 2006.

- 18. Defendant knew its calls were unwanted, therefore, all calls could have only been made solely for purposes of harassment.
- 19. Defendant's incessant calls were bothersome, disruptive and frustrating for Plaintiff to endure.
- 20. Upon information and belief, Defendant conducts business in a manner which violates the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

# COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TCPA 47 U.S.C. § 227(B)

- 21. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.
- 22. The TCPA prohibits placing calls using an automatic telephone dialing system or automatically generated or prerecorded voice to a cellular telephone except where the caller has the prior express consent of the called party to make such calls or where the call is made for emergency purposes. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 23. Defendant initiated multiple telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number using an automatic telephone dialing system.
- 24. The dialing system used by Defendant to call Plaintiff's cellular telephone calls telephone numbers without being prompted by human intervention before each call.
- 25. The dialing system used by Defendant to call Plaintiff has the present and/or future capacity to dial numbers in a random and/or sequential fashion.
  - 26. Defendant's calls were not made for "emergency purposes."
- 27. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone without any prior express consent.

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- 28. Defendant contacted Plaintiff despite the fact that Plaintiff was on the Do Not Call Registry.
- 29. Defendant's acts as described above were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law and with the purpose of harassing Plaintiff.
- 30. The acts and/or omissions of Defendant were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently and absent bona fide error, lawful right, legal defense, legal justification or legal excuse.
- 31. As a result of the above violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff has suffered the losses and damages as set forth above entitling Plaintiff to an award of statutory, actual and trebles damages.

## COUNT II DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TCPA 47 U.S.C. § 227(C)

- 32. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.
- 33. The TCPA prohibits any person or entity of initiating any telephone solicitation to a residential telephone subscriber who has registered his or his telephone number on the National Do-Not-Call Registry of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations that is maintained by the Federal Government. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c).
- 34. Defendant contacted Plaintiff despite the fact that Plaintiff was on the Do Not Call Registry.
- 35. Defendant called Plaintiff on two or more occasions during a single calendar year despite Plaintiff's registration on the Do Not Call list.

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- 36. Defendant's acts as described above were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law and with the purpose of harassing Plaintiff.
- 37. The acts and/or omissions of Defendant were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently and absent bona fide error, lawful right, legal defense, legal justification or legal excuse.
- 38. As a result of the above violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff has suffered the losses and damages as set forth above entitling Plaintiff to an award of statutory, actual and trebles damages.

# COUNT III DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 302.101 OF THE TEXAS BUSINESS & COMMERICAL CODE

- 39. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.
- 40. §302.101 of the Texas Business & Commerce Code prohibits sellers from engaging in telephone solicitation from a location in this state or to a purchaser located in this state unless the seller obtains a registration certificate from the Office of the Secretary of State for the business location from which the solicitation is made.
- 41. Defendant violated § 302.101 of the Texas Business & Commercial Code when its representatives engaged in continuous and repetitive telephone solicitation of Plaintiff without obtaining a registration certificate from the Office of the Secretary of State.
- 42. §302.302(a) of the Texas Business & Commerce Code provides that a person who violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$5,000 for each violation. Furthermore, §302.302(d) provides that the party bringing the action is also entitled to recover all

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reasonable cost of prosecuting the action, including court costs and investigation costs, deposition expenses, witness fees, and attorney fees.

### Wherefore, Plaintiff, Dallas Dean, respectfully prays for judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages Plaintiff suffered (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A)) and §302.302 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code;
- b. Statutory damages of \$500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B));
- c. Additional statutory damages of \$500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(C);
- d. Treble damages of \$1,500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under
   47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3));
- e. Additional treble damages of \$1,500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(C);
- f. Injunctive relief (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3) and (c)
- g. Statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation (as provided under §302.302(a))
   of the Texas Business & Commerce Code);
- h. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to §302.302(a) of the Texas Business & Commerce Code;
- i. Any other relief this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Please take notice that Plaintiff, Dallas Dean, demands a jury trial in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 02/16/2021 By: s/Amy L. Bennecoff Ginsburg

 $Amy\ L.\ Bennecoff\ Ginsburg,\ Esq.$ 

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